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# WEATHER & CROPS



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture



**Week Ending: August 11, 2013**

**Number: 23**

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## WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR AUGUST 11, 2013

It was another wet week for the Old Dominion. Scattered showers diversified total rainfall for the week; most areas experienced between one quarter of an inch and 2 inches of rain. Temperatures were seasonable for this time of year. Days suitable for field work were 5.0. The hay harvest was impeded with frequent thunderstorms. Corn was drying down with the majority of the corn crop in good condition. Corn silage harvest was underway, but about one week behind normal. Early planted soybeans also looked favorable with promising yields; growers were applying fungicides to help maximize yields. Other farming activities for the week included scouting for weeds and insects, applying herbicides and insecticides, harvesting tobacco, and attending Field Days and production meetings.

### TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
August 12, 2013	0	10	69	21
August 5, 2013	0	11	73	16
July 28, 2013	0	12	65	23
July 21, 2013	0	4	63	33
July 14, 2013	0	0	57	43

### SUBSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
August 5, 2013	1	9	69	21
August 5, 2013	0	9	71	20
July 28, 2013	1	10	73	16
July 21, 2013	0	4	70	26
July 14, 2013	0	1	63	36

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**Virginia Cooperative Extension Service**

**Virginia Tech**

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CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	0	3	15	60	22
Livestock	1	3	7	60	29
Hay, Other	1	7	23	51	18
Hay, Alfalfa	0	4	19	57	20
Corn	0	2	9	52	37
Soybeans	1	2	16	60	21
Tobacco, Flue-Cured	0	6	23	49	22
Tobacco, Burley	1	8	35	54	2
Tobacco, Dark Fire Cured	0	1	34	61	4
Peanuts	0	2	13	69	16
Cotton	3	3	11	68	15
Apples, All	0	0	4	96	0
Peaches	0	5	23	71	1
Grapes	0	7	14	79	0

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Silked	93	89	98	96
Corn Dough	70	60	82	78
Corn Dent	32	22	55	48
Corn Silage Harvested	8	na	52	29
Soybeans Blooming	69	59	71	72
Soybeans Setting Pods	34	19	36	37
Tobacco, Flue-Cured Harvested	25	18	15	20
Tobacco, Burley	3	1	2	4
Tobacco, Dark Fired Cured	15	5	2	11
Cotton Setting Bolls	89	65	96	82
Cotton Bolls Opening	1	na	1	3
Peanuts Pegged	93	80	96	87
Apples, Summer Harvested	52	40	43	49
Peaches Harvested	72	60	68	64
Potatoes, Summer Harvested	100	92	100	98

### VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING AUGUST 11, 2013

City	Temperature						Growing degree days (modified base50)		Precipitation				
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal *	Mar. 1 to Aug. 10	Mar. 1 to Aug. 10 Norm	Last Week	Since June. 1	June 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	85	66	91	59	76	1	2631	2503	0.97	10.74	1.41	31.18	3.83
Norfolk	84	71	93	65	78	0	2938	2749	1.56	13.50	2.88	30.92	1.76
Richmond	86	69	93	62	77	0	2936	2718	1.84	14.85	5.21	33.73	6.31
Roanoke	85	68	91	61	77	1	2662	na	0.30	19.66	10.77	40.20	13.40
Wash/Dulles	83	67	89	55	75	-1	2604	na	0.26	12.30	3.52	26.29	0.77

\* Normal based on 1971-2000 data. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>. Source: USDA, NASS, Virginia Field Office.

### REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY

Comments are based on comments reported by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

#### NORTHERN

##### **CULPEPER (Carl Stafford)**

Stink bugs at threshold along soybean field edges near corn.

are just holding off cutting in hopes of a stretch of dry weather. Good crops and forecast of good crops have prices dropping and some producers are showing long faces.

#### EASTERN

##### **FREDERICK (Jeanette Smith)**

Pasture and Hay are good. Rainfall is sufficient. Temperatures started the week in 50's - 70's, towards the end of the week we have had temperature in 70's - 80's and humidity. Corn and beans are looking good.

##### **ESSEX (Keith Balderson)**

Another week with variable rainfall, but all of the area received sufficient amounts to keep topsoil moisture good. Activities included getting ready for corn harvest and scouting soybeans for pests. Given the good yield potential for soybeans and humid conditions, many producers applied fungicides to the soybean crop.

#### CENTRAL

##### **AMELIA (Joan D Poore)**

100 % early soybeans bloomed and setting pods.  
25 % double crop soybeans blooming

##### **CHESTERFIELD (Joan D Poore)**

100% early soybeans have bloomed and set pods  
double crop soybeans have not bloomed.

##### **HANOVER (JIM TATE)**

Three rain events this week totaling more than 2 inches have kept thins green and growing. We had a couple of days of typical central Virginia heat and humidity that just make you want to sit down and get the melting over with. Fortunately, they were interspersed with a couple of beautiful and less humid days. Hearty storms on Saturday dropped a lot of rain in a short while. Enough that I saw several auto wrecks just from people hydroplaning, or from missing curves from the inability to see and apparent inability to temporarily cease driving. Great grass weather and some of the hay guys even successfully harvested some hay without benefit of washing, but a lot got washed too. Many

##### **MIDDLESEX (David Moore)**

More rain this week. Over 2 inches in some places and week not over yet. Field days and production meetings abound. Folks are interested to see how crops are progressing around the region. Folks making plans to plant small grains. Some folks saying they may cut back a little due to price and the issues we had this year with harvest and seed quality. Haymaking is sporadic due to showers. Scouting soybeans for weeds, insects and disease is one of main activities of the week. Decision making time for soybean folks on whether to apply fungicide to R-3 and R-4 beans. CEW numbers are down for now. Lots of interest in stink bugs and kudzu bugs in soybeans. Folks are encouraged to check on threshold levels and control measures. Corn is drying down slowly. Folks are a little anxious about harvest to see what happens with price and lines at the granary. Vegetables continue to do pretty well. Lots of talk of powdery and downy mildews in certain crops.

## **REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)**

Comments are based on comments reported by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

### **WESTERN**

#### **ROCKBRIDGE (Tom Stanley)**

Another week of scattered thunderstorms complicated hay making efforts. These rains coupled with average temperatures 5 - 10 degrees below normal have been favorable for pastures, pollinating corn, and soybeans on the verge of blooming.

### **SOUTHWEST**

#### **SCOTT (Scott Jerrell)**

Wet weather is still causing problems with hay production - quality is decreasing rapidly and too wet to harvest. Vegetables are suffering due to lack of preventative fungicide applications and phytophthora. Cattle prices are still looking optimistic, and heifer development is in full swing with pregnancy checks and ultrasounds completed.

#### **SMYTH (Andy Overbay)**

Continued wet conditions are leading to noted decrease weight gains on livestock, especially cattle/calves. Hay forage tests seem to be 5 to 8 point lower on crude protein as compared to the same fields harvested last year.

### **SOUTHERN**

#### **LUNENBURG (Lindy Tucker)**

Tobacco - a few fields still need topping. Pulling is taking place. Seeing some interesting problems in a few of the organic fields... not sure whether it is weather related. Dark and burley look good overall. Soybeans - looking pretty good. Trying to keep an eye out for insect pressure from corn earworms and kudzu bug. Hay - still working on second cutting. The rain is again presenting challenges.

### **SOUTHEASTERN**

#### **BRUNSWICK (Cynthia L. Gregg)**

A few slight showers this week in spots across the county. There is still water standing in places in various fields. Tobacco harvest is well underway. Crops especially soybeans and corn are being scouted for insect damage. There has been some Downy Mildew in pumpkins in the county.

#### **SURRY (Glenn Slade)**

Frequent rains have many growers changing spray schedules for peanut leaf spot disease, and cotton growth regulators. Some soybean fields are being cleaned up for late weeds. Corn drying down well.

#### **SUSSEX (Kelvin Wells)**

Hoping for showers to moisten the ground. The county needs at least a half inch of rain to help crop production.